

THE EAST YORK GARDEN

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB



The East York Garden Club is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact Suzanne Boyd at 416-423-5857.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko
Susan Bartlett

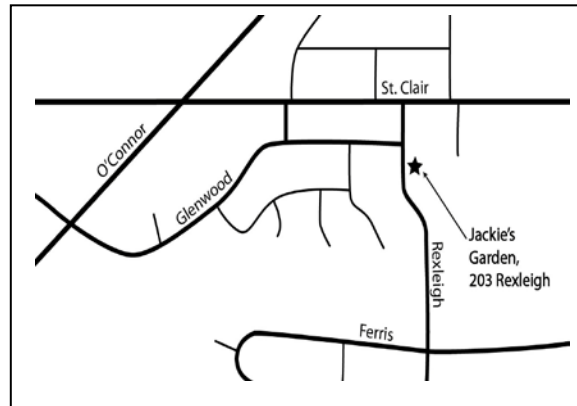
Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett
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Thursday, July 15, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Members' Pot-Luck Dinner

This year's dinner will be at the garden of Jackie Ramo at 203 Rexleigh Drive. Rexleigh is accessible from St. Clair Avenue East or from O'Connor Drive.



Please bring a dish with six portions*, a plate, cup, personal cutlery and a lawn or folding type chair. Beverages will be provided.

**(The law requires us to give notice that the food has not been inspected i.e., eat at your own risk. In keeping with food safety, please follow general food safety practices – wash your hands when cooking, keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot.)*

Saturday, August 21, 2010, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Annual Show & Tea

The Annual Show is our largest show of the year and a chance to show off what we can grow in East York. Your entries for the show will be accepted between 7 o'clock and 8 o'clock on Friday evening, and between 9 o'clock and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday morning. Judging begins at 11:20 a.m. sharp, with viewing between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

There will be some fabulous draw prizes, including a sundial, a birdbath and over one hundred dollars worth of Lee Valley tools. Draw tickets are \$2 for 1 ticket and \$5 for 3 tickets. Tickets will be for sale not only the day of the show but at the Potluck dinner.

For the afternoon tea, we would appreciate donations of desserts, cookies, or other goodies. At the end of the day, the flowers, preserves and remaining baked goods will be auctioned off.

President's Patch
by Veronica Callinan

Hello Fellow Gardenistas! I hope you've taken some time to get into your own gardens - working and but also just enjoying them. The rain, sun and heat has really contributed to amazing weed growth. After 2 summers of rain and grey skies, this actually feels like SUMMER! Hurray!

Photo by Marion Stephens



Canada Day was fantastic! The Weather Committee worked really hard to provide us with a fabulous day of sun, warmth, and breezes. Thanks to the 17 walkers who came out and walked in the Parade! And a special thanks to Laura Grant who flew in from out west late the night before but came out to walk with us. Folks said they saw us in the Parade when they came to our table. And they came in droves, we made almost \$900! Not bad, eh?! Thanks also to the many volunteers who spent the day answering questions, shuffling plants and Attic Treasures around, and selling, selling, selling.

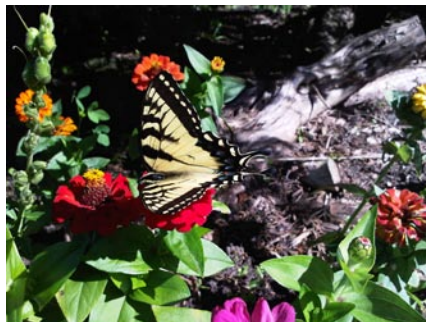
The Rockery is looking fantabulous. We get compliments all the time, and ... a special thank



you left by unknown donor. This ceramic tile was left on the berm for everyone to see:



The annuals are taking hold nicely, the roses are blooming like crazy, and the perennials are exploding in colour. The crew that comes out every Saturday morning, 10-noon, has been doing a great job of weeding, deadheading, moving the City's compost and mulch, and keeping the Rockery gorgeous. Great job! This Canadian Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio canadensis*) also appreciates our efforts, it visited the zinnias for some time:



See you at Jackie's house and on our Members Only Tour! For more information, please see the map & directions attached to this newsletter.....vc

Upcoming Events

July 24 & 25, 2010 (Saturday & Sunday)

Marion Jarvie - Open Garden (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill)

The third of four weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing (the garden is also open on the weekend of September 18 & 19). There are always many select plants for sale, and there is no charge for admittance. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

August 13 & 14, 2010 (Friday & Saturday)
OHA Convention at the Georgian College, Barrie

The annual meeting of the Ontario Horticultural Association, featuring speakers, demonstrations, tours, and an opportunity to meet gardeners from across the province. Early discounts are over but tickets still available. Further information:

http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php

2011 MASTER GARDENER RECRUITMENT

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at TBG, Moriyama Boardroom

Wednesday, Sept 29, 2010, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at TBG, Moriyama Boardroom

The interview focuses on the educational and volunteer obligations of Master Gardeners as well as the applicant's gardening experience.

Successful candidates will begin their Master Gardener in Training apprenticeship in January 2011.

For more information, interested folks may contact Jean Gardiner: jgardin609@rogers.com

Tips & Tricks: New Products

by Anna Leggatt

I recently attended a Garden Writers Association Meeting where we were presented with various products to evaluate.

These have caught my attention:

Magic Ring™

This ring assembles easily and fits inside a yard waste bag. It adjusts to differing sizes. www.finnsage.com

WeedComb™ This looks like half a small man trap on a short, comfortable handle. It easily cuts down and removes weeds, cultivating the soil at the same time. It is steel plated and rust resistant.

It can be attached to a long handle for hard to reach areas. www.weedcomb.com

Tanglefoot Yellow Greenhouse Traps are yellow sticky sheets without pesticides. The colour attracts whiteflies, midges, aphids and fungus gnats. The sticky substance is long lasting.

I hung one by my plant lights in the basement and it has caught a good crop of fungus gnats.

www.tanglefoot.com

From the Flower Show Committee

Please enter our flower shows.

You must have at least 5 cut specimens or potted plants that are as good as the prize winners.

Remember: you must have owned the plant for at last 3 months (when did you buy those annuals?) and it can only win one prize in any of the monthly shows

The Anna Leggatt Novice Award

Anna is again giving an award to the Novice who wins the highest number of points in any of the classes in our flower shows this year (2010).

To be eligible, you must be a novice entering the May, June, the Annual and/or the September shows. A novice is someone who has not won a First Prize previously in an East York Garden Club show. You can still enter and win the award if you are awarded a first prize in your first attempt. This is a one time award.

Consult the show schedule, ask for help if necessary and bring in your arrangements. Some classes are just for Novices. However, you can enter them all.

Good Roses & Bad Roses- Submitted by Dugald Cameron, President, Garden Imports

New gardeners have this mistaken impression that roses are hard to grow. They think of them as finicky, fragile creatures that demand loads of chemicals, fertilizers, and pruning. Worst of all, they think that roses are tender plants, likely to die over the winter. Now I'll admit that roses appreciate a modicum of attention but this reputation is unjustified. It's a bad rap that these wonderful plants don't deserve.

BAD ROSES

The problem is not so much in their cultivation but with the plants themselves. Unsuspecting gardeners are just planting bad roses and it usually isn't the actual variety of rose but the root stock causing the difficulty. The vast majority of roses sold in Canada are grafted. In order to meet demand and to produce plants at a reasonable cost, the variety of rose you are buying is grafted to the rootstock of a different rose and herein lies the problem. Almost all roses grown in the United States are grafted to a rootstock called 'Dr.Huey'. It performs wonderfully PROVIDED YOU GARDEN IN ZONE 7! In Canada roses grafted to 'Dr.Huey' are only really hardy on the west coast of BC and the balmy climes of southernmost Ontario. Huge numbers of American roses are shipped to Canada every year and the majority of these will either die the first winter or linger on for a season or two in a weakened state and fall prey to disease.. If the people selling the roses don't or can't tell you the rootstock, DON'T BUY IT, it's probably on 'Dr.Huey'. If you learn that it is grafted onto 'Dr. Huey' rootstock and you live in an area colder than zone 7, DON'T BUY IT! All of this is a shame because there are perfectly hardy rootstocks for Canada, namely *Rosa multiflora*, *Rosa laxa* or ungrafted roses on their own roots. Some types and varieties of roses are by their nature less hardy than others but how ironic it is to find hardy, Canadian-bred Explorer roses grafted on to 'Dr.Huey' and sold as the hardy plants that they would in fact be, but for their roots. The root of the matter indeed.

The latest trend in rose breeding is to produce floriferous, vigorous plants that are so disease resistant that they require no spraying whatsoever. One of the earliest proponents of this trend was the Kordes Nursery in Germany, a 4th generation family-run nursery.

At a 2008 lecture at the Toronto Botanical Garden, Wilhelm Kordes (the current director) told us his father thought he was nuts when he decided to base their selection from their trial fields on unsprayed roses. The fields that year looked terrible.

There are so many nurseries producing "spray-free" roses that a group of them got together to do field trials in 9 gardens throughout Germany. The roses are grown for 3 years and compared on 15 characteristics: form, colour, fragrance, repeat bloom, hardiness, vigour and disease resistance are a few of these. The winners are awarded the coveted ADR (Allgemeine Deutsche Rosenneuheitenprüfung) designation. A worthy award and one held by a number of our roses this year.

HIGHLIGHTS

Having described the ADR designation in such glowing terms I will now contradict myself to point out that there are many excellent roses that don't have an ADR. Wilhelm Kordes himself admitted that for fragrance few roses can beat the David Austin roses and that some of his own favourites had yet to get an ADR.

Basil Fungus

Sweet is at risk of an aggressive fungal disease named downy mildew. The disease was first found in Uganda in the 1930s but didn't appear again until 9 years ago in Europe. The first cases started in Florida and spread up the East Coast to Canada.

Leaves showing the first stages of the disease can still be harvested - the disease is not toxic, it merely makes leaves look unappetizing. It is therefore more of a problem for commercial growers, but home gardeners should monitor their basil plants.

Healthy plants can become infected as the disease spores are carried in the air and survive in seeds. The disease first appears as faint yellow bands on the upper surfaces of the leaves. The lower leaf surfaces become dotted with tiny gray specks. It takes about 2 weeks for the disease to show after the initial infection.

Treatment: organic fungicides are limited in effectiveness so it is best to **grow basil in an open, breezy location and don't crowd it with other plants.** Sweet basil types and Thai Lemon and purples varieties appear to be a little more resistant to the disease.

Source: *Toronto Star*